

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 12, 18, 25, 29-32, 34, 39, 42-43, 45, 48, and 51-52 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (once amended) A soluble derivative of a soluble polypeptide, said derivative comprising two or more membrane binding elements with low membrane affinity covalently associated with the polypeptide, which elements are not all identical and are capable of interacting, independently and with thermodynamic additivity, with components of cellular or artificial membranes exposed to extracellular fluids.

4. (twice amended) A derivative according to claim 1 which incorporates sufficient elements with low affinities for membrane components to result in a 0.01-10nM dissociation constant affinity for specific cell membranes.

10. (twice amended) A derivative according to claim 8 wherein a membrane binding element is a basic amino acid sequence including (Lys)_n, where n is from 3 to 10.

11. (once amended) A derivative according to claim 10 wherein the amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

i) DGPKKKKKKSPSKSSG (SEQ ID No. 37).

- iii) SPSNETPKKKKKRFSFKKSSG (SEQ ID No. 41),
- iv) DGPKKKKKKSPSKSSK (SEQ ID No. 43), and
- v) SKDGKKKKKKSKTK (SEQ ID No. 45).

16. (twice amended) A derivative according to claim 15 wherein the chemical bridging groups are of formula (I):



in which each of A and B, which may be the same or different, represents -CO-, -C(=NH₂⁺)-, maleimido, -S- or a bond and R is a bond or a linking group containing one or more -(CH₂)-or meta-ortho- or para-disubstituted phenyl units optionally together with a hydrophilic portion.

21. (once amended) A soluble derivative according to claim 20 wherein the soluble CR1 polypeptide consists of residues 1-196 of CR1 and with an N-terminal methionine and the derivative comprises a myristoyl group and one or more polypeptides sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- i) DGPKKKKKKSPSKSSGC,
- ii) GSSKSPSKKKKKKPGDC,
- iii) CDGPKKKKKKSPSKSSK,
- iv) SKDGKKKKKKSKTKC,
- v) CSAAPSSGFRILLKLV,
- vi) AAPSVIGFRILLKLVAGC, and
- vii) DGPSEILRGDFSSC.

28. (once amended) A polypeptide portion of a derivative according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7, 23, 33, 6 and 14.

35. (twice amended) A soluble derivative of a soluble polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein at least one membrane binding element with low membrane affinity is a C₁₀₋₂₀ fatty acyl derivative of an aminoC₂₋₆ alkane thiol, wherein the C in alkane thiol is optionally substituted.

36. (once amended) The soluble derivative of claim 35 is selected from the group consisting of N-(2-myristoyl) aminoethanethiol and N-myristoyl L-cysteine.